

JUN 19 1964

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Birch Leader Says Rights Bill Will Hasten Takeover by Reds

The civil rights bill will hasten a Communist takeover of the United States, former Representative John H. Rousselot (Rep.), California, charged here yesterday.

Rousselot, currently western district governor of the John Birch Society, asserted that the civil rights bill will destroy the United States constitution.

It will concentrate and consolidate "fantastic federal power over individuals, organizations and local governments that can be more easily manipulated by the Communists," he said.

Rousselot charged also that Communists have infiltrated and have control of the civil rights movement.

No Absolute Proof

Speaking at a John Birch Society meeting at the Coronado Hotel, he read charges by the House Committee on Un-American Activities of Communist af-



By a Post-Dispatch Photographer
John Rousselot

filiations against some American civil rights leaders.

When asked about the validity of such charges, he said, "We cannot hope for absolute proof of their guilt, whatever that may be, but rather proof of their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

The overwhelming proportion of civil rights activity is manipulated by the Communists, fellow travelers or their friends, he declared.

Instead of demonstrating, Rousselot suggested that the Negro should "make use of educational facilities already available and the free enterprise system in the traditional American way—the do-it-yourself spirit."

Other minority groups have won their rights through voluntary methods, he said.

Says Goldwater Will Win

At a press conference, Rousselot predicted that Senator Barry M. Goldwater would win the Republican nomination and the presidency because he knows President Lyndon B. Johnson's weaknesses and will campaign for a strong foreign policy.

Rousselot termed the Scranton backers "the Eastern Establishment—the left-wing collectivists of the Republican party."

He said that the membership of the John Birch Society in Missouri had doubled in recent years. He refused to say what the membership was.

Rousselot said that the John Birch Society believes that Lee Oswald, accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy, was operating under Communist orders, and that his widow, Mrs. Marina Oswald, is a Communist.

"I can't understand why the United States allows her to travel about freely," he said.